

11-18/21-1982, page 6

holdings of the CHS. Mostly the Shiflers wanted to talk because they are filled with enthusiasm for the CHS and its new life and that is grand and they are excellent members of the Society.

At the meeting on 11-18-1982, I publicly thanked Sue Stephens for the excellent publicity that she has done for the CHS and she was pleased with the public thank you.

At the meeting on 11-18-1982, Oliver Shifler reported that Mr. Durfee (who gave the clock to Carbondale) was first buried in Brookside Cemetery and later moved to Willow View in Clifford. Oliver Shifler and Kay were very pleased that I brought up the topic of the Durfee photograph and notes that they had given me at the last meeting. As I handed out the Tiffany hand-out, I reported that the Shiflers had had a hand-out on the Durfee tombstones in Clifford and that it was handed out at the last meeting. I encouraged all members to bring such items to the attention of the Society and asked that we have such things presented at all of our meetings. The Shiflers love to begin the meetings with a "show and tell" of sorts. I think it is a good idea. I believe Oliver Shifler said that it was John Booth who was responsible for having the Durfee bodies moved to Clifford when Brookside began to cave in (it probably began to cave in because some greedy and illegal coal companies were stealing coal from under the cemetery and so the cemetery began to cave in because of the subterranean theft that was being perpetrated by some coal company).

At the meeting on the 18th, I brought to the attention of my colleagues the large quantity of press notices that the CHS had recently received, largely because of the excellent work of Sue Stephens.

I read my letter to the Society that I wrote to Morrison's on 11-12-1982 in which I thanked them for all that they had done for the Society to make its dinner there a success on 11-06-1982.

I read to the Society on the 18th my letter to Dr. Coleman of 11-13-1982 as well as my letter to Ray Rinaldi of 11-12-1982. I handed out to the meeting on the 18th a copy of "OFFICERS, TRUSTEES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE CARBONDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1982-1983."

11-24-1982

In Rinaldi's column in THE SCRANTONIAN on 11-21-1982, it was announced, more or less as a fait accompli, that a new Post Office would be built in Carbondale. Oliver and Kay Shifler called me while I was out with the Buberniaks. They, and many other Carbondaleans--including Dave Adams--are very upset that a new building will be built. When was the decision made? By whom? Oliver and Kay felt that an official statement should be made by the President of the CHS and wanted to talk. I didn't reach them on Sunday night. On Monday evening I called and we chatted for about 1 1/2 hours about the matter. They suggested that I write and send a registered letter to McDade and Specter and Heinz, among others. I suggested that we send mailgrams. I wrote a mailgram and called them back and had a copy sent to them in Carbondale. They will make copies and circulate it around town. I sent the same message to McDade in a letter to his Clarks Summit home. The mailgram went to his Scranton Office. I put the same message in a letter to Heinz and Specter and sent them off First Class that night from the GPO. I sent copies of the letter that I sent to McDade's Clark Summit address to Mayor Mancuso and to Postmaster Barrett. Apparently the bids for the new building will be opened at the Post Office on 11-24-1982. Oliver Shifler will attend the meeting. It is an outrage that federal money should be spent in Carbondale to build a building that Carbondale does not need. Many citizens feel that way. I proposed to the Shiflers that we have a demonstration on 11-26-1982 in front of the Post Office. They think it is a good idea. On 11-23-1982 at 5:05 P.M. I called the Shiflers to find them not at home. I will telephone them on 11-25-1982 and we will plot and scheme and plan our day-after-Thanksgiving demonstration. Kay and Oliver got all fired up by my remarks. Kay spoke of her defense of the elm tree by the Baptist Church--she defended the tree from its enemies. She said that she threatened to climb up in the tree if anyone dared to try to cut it down. The tree still stands. The Shiflers also reported on 11-22-1982 that they have made some donations to the CHS--an artificial Christmas tree that we will put in 301 as well as some folding chairs. We also hold our next meeting therein. They ran into Bob Tomaine on Sunday and he told them what we had done in 301 and that got them fired up as well. We are getting some real commitments now and that is excellent. We will hold our next meeting (December 9th) in 301 and it will be a Christmas party. The Shiflers have also donated a vacuum cleaner to the CHS for cleaning up 301 and other areas. We shall have to get a permit, I imagine, in order to have a demonstration. The CHS must take a stand on this issue. As president of the CHS I will have to be very visible in Carbondale in the demonstration against a new Post Office. I wonder how my attitude towards a new Post Office will affect my position with Postmaster Barrett and the others in the Post Office. I must take a public stand on my convictions and the convictions of the CHS--regardless of the consequences. I will call the Shiflers on Thursday evening and we will make plans for our demonstration on 11-26-1982--a day during which hundreds and hundreds of motorists will be driving through town (the day after Thanksgiving is traditionally the busiest shopping day of the year). What an excellent day for a demonstration. I imagine that we will be able to get a great many people who will march with us. This will be an excellent opportunity to get new members for the CHS. Carbondale must realize that the CHS is a group of courageous citizens who are looking out for Carbondale.